

From Assessment to Action: How NeRWA Assists Communities with Source Protection

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Northeast Rural Water Association

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Outline

I. NeRWA Background

II. Source Water Protection Process

III. Conclusions

I. Northeast Rural Water Association

- Non-profit membership organization
- Technical assistance and training
- Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Vermont



NeRWA's Source Water Protection Program

- Program began 2001
- Small systems (<10,000)
- *No direct cost*
- EPA Federal Grant



II. Planning Process

1. Annual Operating Plan
2. Local Partner
3. Public Workshop
4. Form Advisory Committee
5. Gather Information
6. Prioritize Risks
7. Propose Management Activities
8. Public Input
9. Adopt Plan / Share results
10. Implement Activities

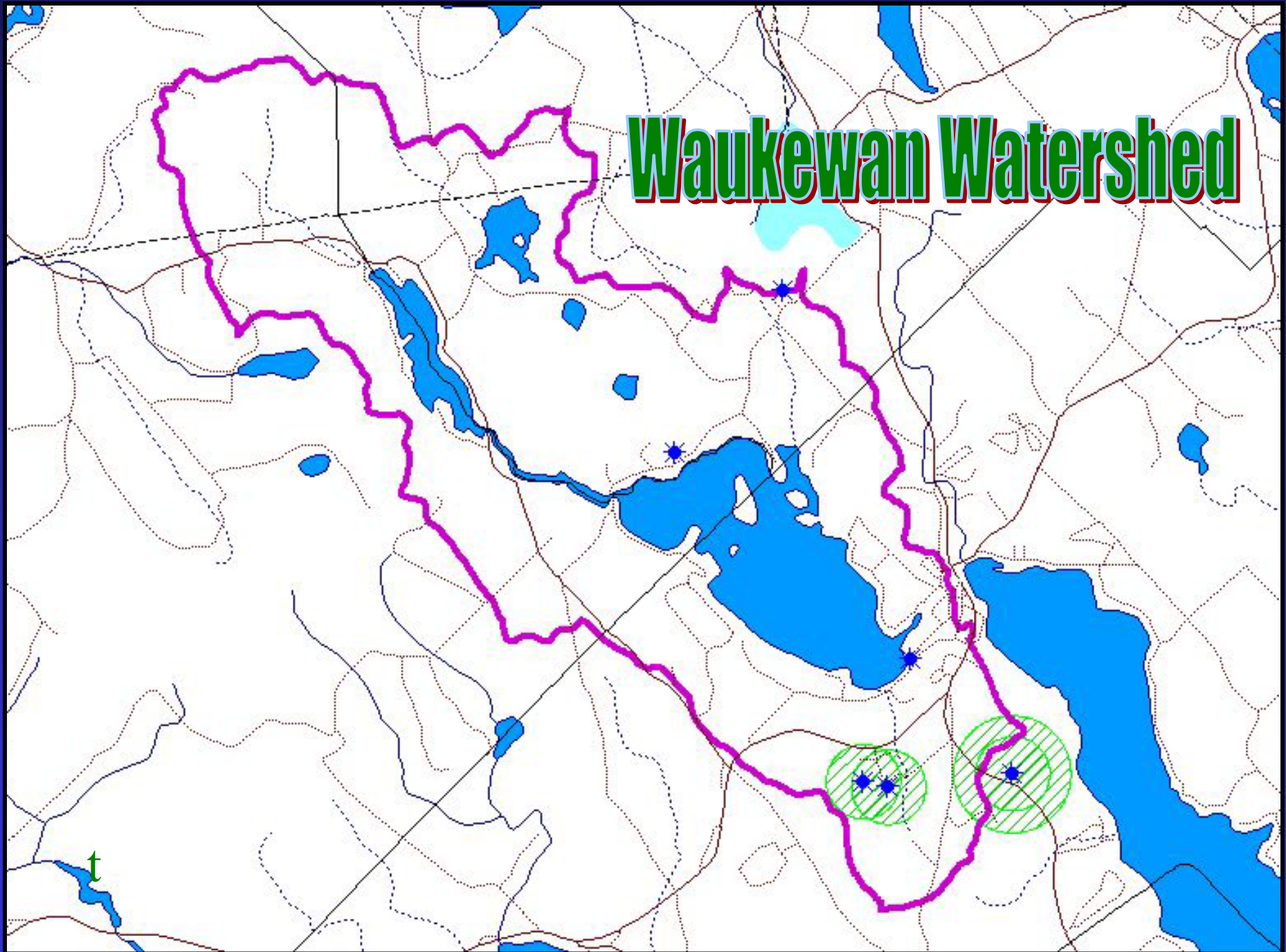
1. Annual Operating Plan

- Meet with NH DES and others
- Identify priority projects
- 3 project areas per year
- Project Area: > 5 public water sources

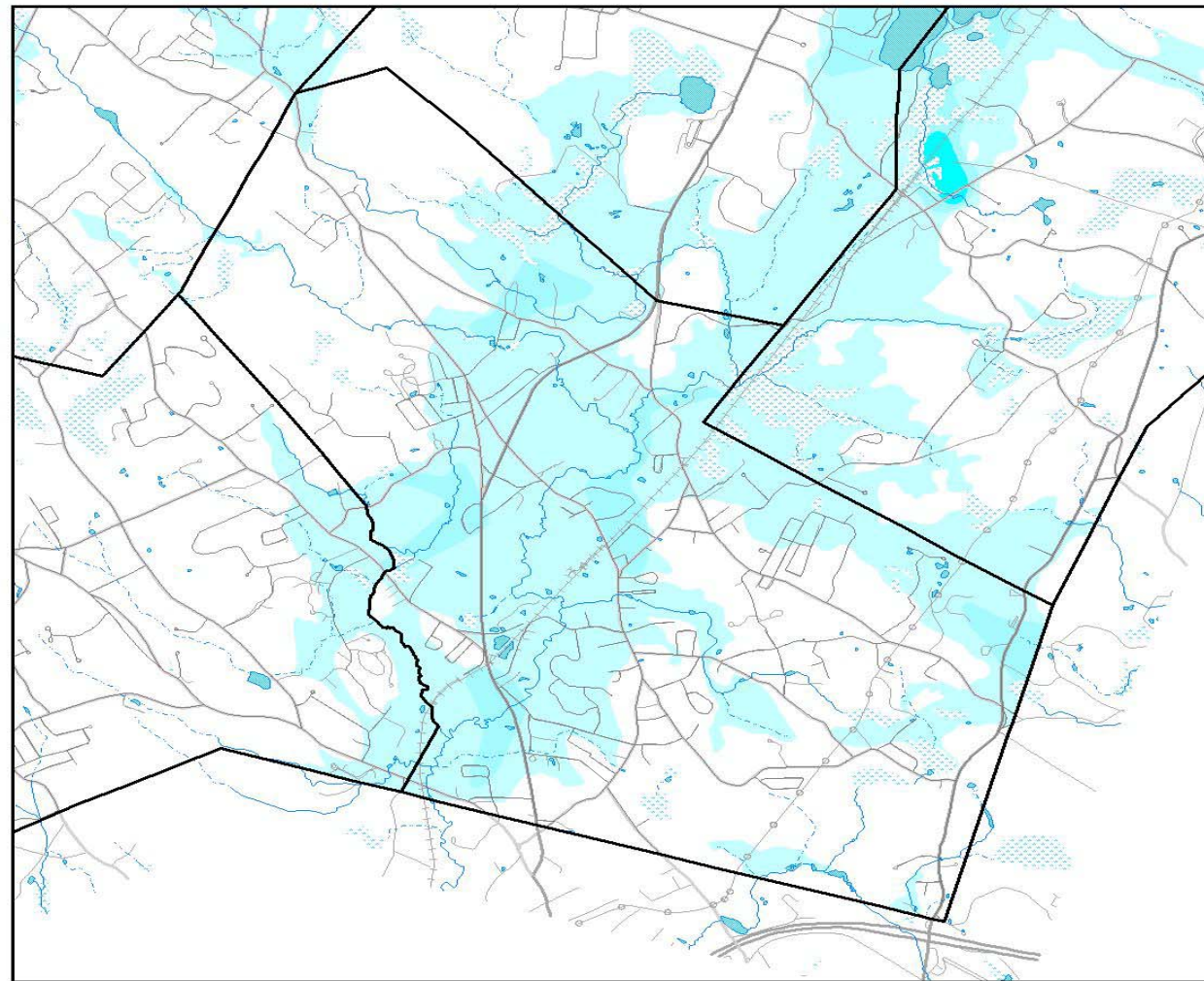
Goals & Approach

- Goal: Protect public water supplies
- Community
- Regional
- Watershed
- Stakeholder driven
- Land use decisions made locally

Waukewan Watershed



Plaistow: Community-wide



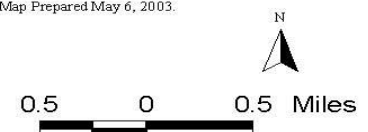
WATER RESOURCES In the Town of: PLAISTOW, NH

LEGEND

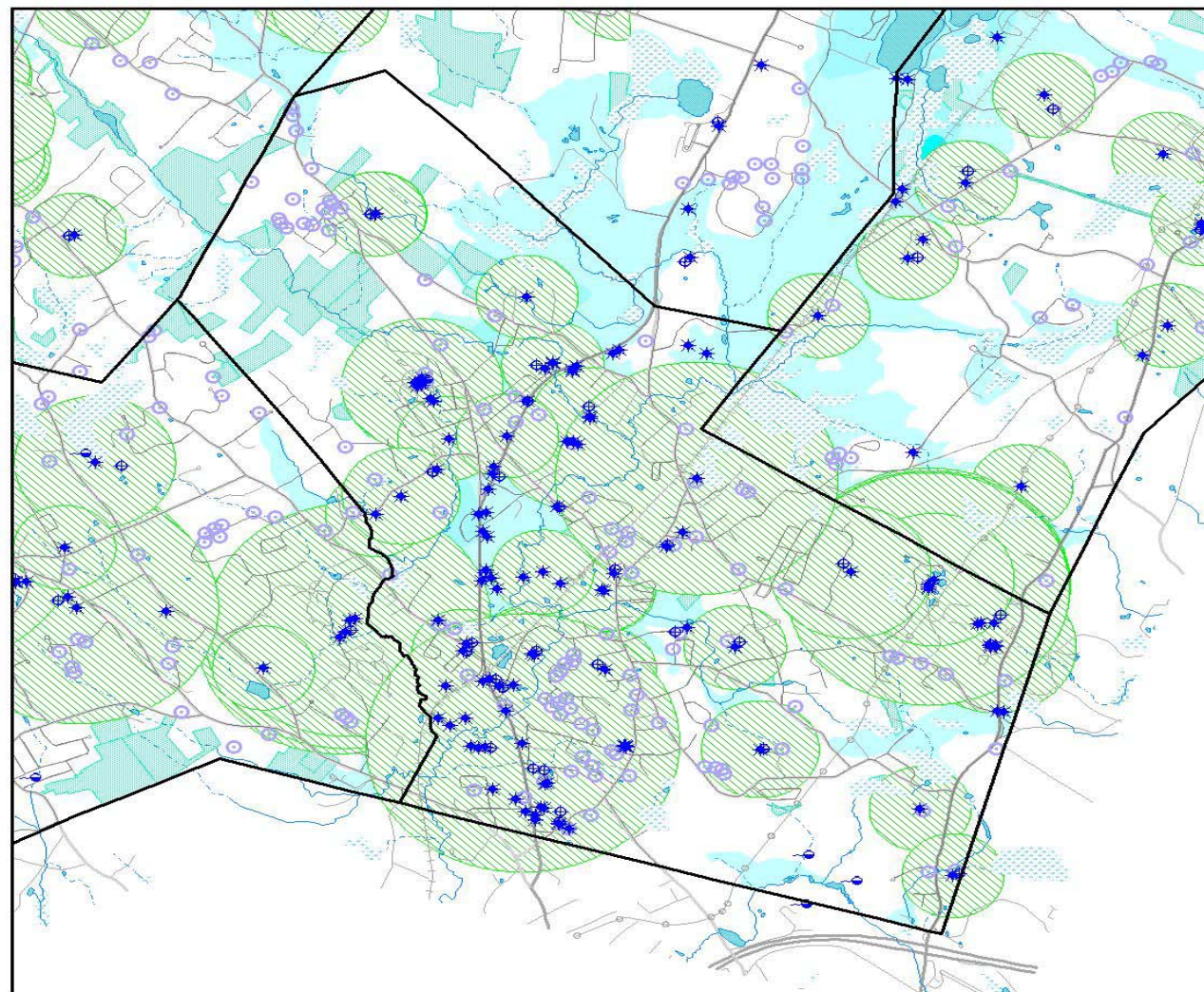
- Stratified Drift Aquifer
- Stream or Shoreline
- Intermittent stream
- Surface water
- Wetland
- Primary route

The coverages presented in this program are under constant revision as new sites or facilities are added. They may not contain all of the potential or existing sites or facilities. The Department is not responsible for the use or interpretation of this information, nor for any inaccuracies.

Map Prepared May 6, 2003.



Public Wells



WATER RESOURCES In the Town of: PLAISTOW, NH

LEGEND

- Stratified Drift Aquifer
- Stream or Shoreline
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- Surface water
- Wetland
- Primary route
- Public Water Supplies
- PWS Facilities
- Reg. Water Withdrawals
- Water Well Inventory
- SWPAs
- WHPAs
- Conservation/Public Land

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0.5 0 0.5 Miles

PCS Inventory

WATER RESOURCES In the Town of PLAISTOW, NH

LEGEND

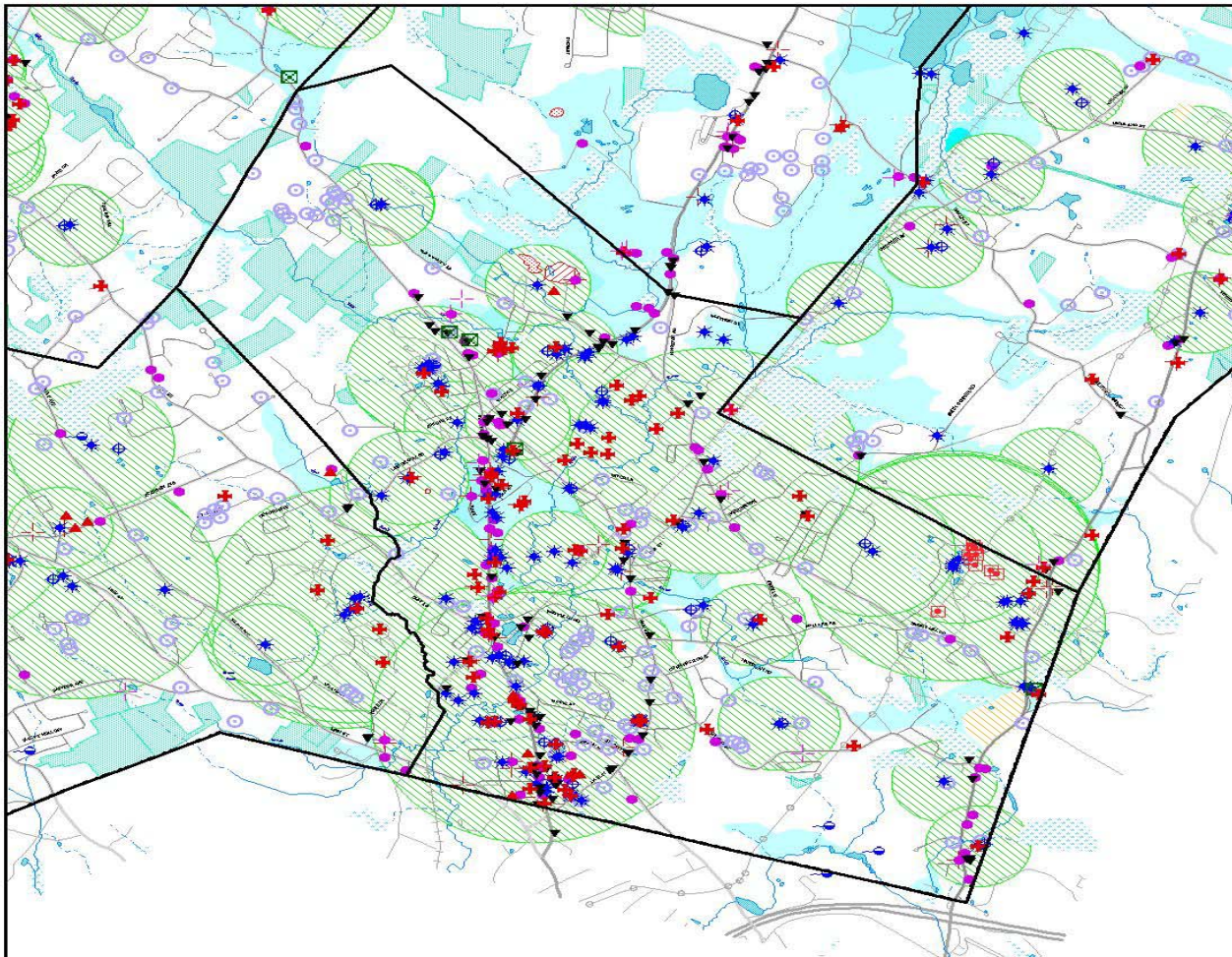
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- Water Well Inventory
- SWPAs
- WHPAs
- Conservation/Public Land
- GWHI Sites
- GWHI Areas
- USTs
- ASTs
- RCRA Sites
- RCRA Areas
- Junkyards
- NPDES Outfalls
- Non-point Src.
- Non-point Src. (poly)
- Pesticides

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0.5 0 0.5 Miles



2. Local Host

- Planning Board (Walpole)
- Conservation Commission (Plaistow)
- Water Supplier (Gorham)
- Planning Department (Meredith)

3. Public Workshop

- Local Host
- Source protection
- Describe water systems
- Review SWAPs
- Threats to water quality
- Future Steps



4. Source Water Committee

- Volunteers
- 10-12 members
- Diversity of stakeholders
 - educator
 - town boards
 - agricultural interests
 - commercial



Source Water Committee

- Meet 1-2 times / month
- Follow Right-to-Know Law
- 12 month commitment
- 12 months of planning

5. Gather Information

- Source Water Assessment
 - delineations, pcs
- Water quality data
- PCS Inventory (parcel by parcel, windshield)
- VLAP data
- Economic Conditions
- Demographics
- Water Demand
- Zoning
- Past & Projected Land Use

6. Prioritize Risks

- SWAPs susceptibility rankings
- Contaminants
- Regulatory Standards
- In/Outside Critical Areas
- Toxicity
- Proximity
- Quantity
- Fate and Transport of Contaminant
- Develop Problem Statements

7. Propose Management Activities

- Establish Goals
- Identify Activities
- Regulatory & Non-regulatory

Possible Management Measures

Non regulatory:

- Public education
- Citizen involvement
- Best Management Practices
- Land acquisition & protection
- Household hazardous waste collection
- Pollution prevention through emergency response planning

Regulatory:

- Zoning Ordinances
- Performance standards
- Health regulations (septic systems, floor drains)
- Reclassification

Plaistow: Education & Outreach

- Notification Letters
- Educational Brochure
- Annual Town Report
- Local Cable Access Channel
- Project WET



Walpole: Aquifer Overlay District



Plymouth: Reclassification

- Zoning changes – politically infeasible
- Reclassified groundwater sources
- Prohibits six high risk land uses
- PCS subject to BMP inspections

8. Public Input

- Open meeting process
- Focus groups
- Input throughout plan development
- Web site and e-mail updates
- Draft plan for public review

9. Adopt Plan

- Present plan to Communities
- Encourage Adoption by Town Boards/Commissions
- Board of Selectmen

10. Implement

- NeRWA – 1 implementation activity
- Review annually, update every 3 years

III. Conclusions

1. Locally driven process
2. On-the-ground time
3. Media Campaign (Meredith)
4. > Water system focus
5. Partners
6. Multiple scales

Resources

- www.neruralwater.org
- jpalmiotto@neruralwater.org
- <http://www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/>